

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 17-20 have been amended and new claim 21 has been added. Claims 17-21 are pending and under consideration.

In the Office Action mailed July 24, 2006, claims 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112(1) as not being enabled by the disclosure, claims 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Tanabe (U.S. Patent No. 5,119,369) in view of Noirel (U.S. Patent No. 4,469,975). The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 17-20 are amended, and claim 21 is added, taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 17-20 under 35 112(1) is respectfully requested.

Tanabe discusses a packet switch communication network using packets having virtual channel identifiers. More specifically, Tanabe, col. 2, lines 44-65, discusses:

"Namely, in the present invention, each of the switching stations forming the network operates so as to receive a packet, which has in a header portion thereof, a VCI which it has designated for itself (or that switching station) and to deliver a header label converted packet which includes a VCI designated by that other switching station. Accordingly, for example, in the network, as shown in Fig 1., in which a packet delivered from the A station 52 and a packet delivered from the B station 54 are inputted to the C station 56 in a form in which the packets are multiplexed on the common transmission line 70, the present invention allows the C station 56 to determine the VCI which is to be given to a packet it receives at every call so that the packet received from the A station 52 and the packet received from the B station 54 always have different VCI's, thereby making it possible to identify a logical connection of each packet using only the VCI. As a result, the address capacity of a label conversion table necessary for rewrite of a header label of the received packet can be limited to the number of VCI's (for example, $2^{16}=64K$)" (emphasis added).

Although, Tanabe discusses a system in which the packet from the A station 52 and the packet from the B station 54 are multiplexed on the common transmission line 70, Tanabe discusses that the "packet received from the A station 52 and the packet received from the B station 54 always have different VCI's thereby making it possible to identify a logical connection of each packet using only the VCI" (emphasis added).

That is, Tanabe maintains each of the packets from the A station 52 and the packets received from the B, having different VCI's, on the common transmission line 70.

Noirel discusses one-way data transmission systems. More specifically, Noirel (col. 1 at lines 59-67) discusses "a data one-way transmission system using a transmitting station which transmits in the form of packs, digital data, possibly delivered from several channels, each packet including a prefix containing, in addition to the conventional sync signals and channel identification code signal, a packet format signal normally indicating the length of the data sequence following the prefix. The transmission station has as many couplers as there are channels". However, Noirel does not cure the deficiencies of Tanabe.

In contrast to Tanabe and Noirel, taken either alone or in combination, the present invention multiplexes the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information, and information indicative of lengths of the communication of the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet, both of the ATM packets being transferred to a same node and having different channel identification information, into a payload of a new ATM packet.

Each of independent claims 17-21 recites these features of the present invention.

More specifically, claim 17 of the present application recites "means for multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet, both of the ATM packets being transferred to a same node and having different channel identification information, into a payload of a new ATM packet".

Claim 18 of the present application recites "means for multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet, both of the ATM packets being transferred to a same node and having same channel Identification information, into a payload of a new ATM packet".

Claim 19 of the present application recites "means for multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet, both of the ATM packets being transferred to a same node and having a same channel identification information, into a payload of a new ATM packet".

Claim 20 of the present application recites "multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet,

both of the ATM packets being transferred to a same node, into a payload of a new ATM packet".

New claim 21 of the present application recites "a unit multiplexing communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of a first TM packet and a second ATM packet, both of the ATM packets being transferred to a same node and having different channel identification information, into a payload of a new ATM packet, and outputting the new ATM packet."

Advantageously, the present invention minimizes the delay time required to transmit communication information by multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet into a payload of a new ATM packet.

Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103 and allowance of new claim 21 is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

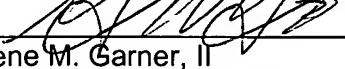
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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